

**The PHSIS Mission:**

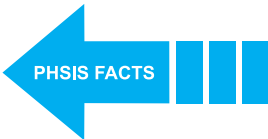
“To Provide the Right Information...To the Right People...In the Right Time and Format.”

**PHSIS Values**  
*We are committed to:*

- Customer Service
- Meeting or exceeding the needs of our diverse customers.
- Teamwork
- Working without walls.
- Use of Scientific Data
- Using rational methods and scientific knowledge to provide answers and to guide our professional judgements.
- Confidentiality
- Protecting confidential information while maximizing the use of data.

**PHSIS Visions**

- Our staff is proactive, well-trained, cross-trained, culturally competent, flexible and mission driven.
- We are viewed as a laboratory for using scientific data for decision making.
- Our systems are integrated and accessible.
- We are the primary point of contact for data and information.



**SCAN**

Your access to DHEC’s public health data on the Internet

PHSIS recently established SCAN - DHEC’s South Carolina Community Assessment Network on the Internet.

SCAN is a web-based, interactive, data retrieval system for community assessment. It provides South Carolinians immediate access to aggregate public health data specific to their community.

SCAN is DHEC’s primary data dissemination tool on the Internet. Users can create tables, maps, and charts according to their research interests and specifications.

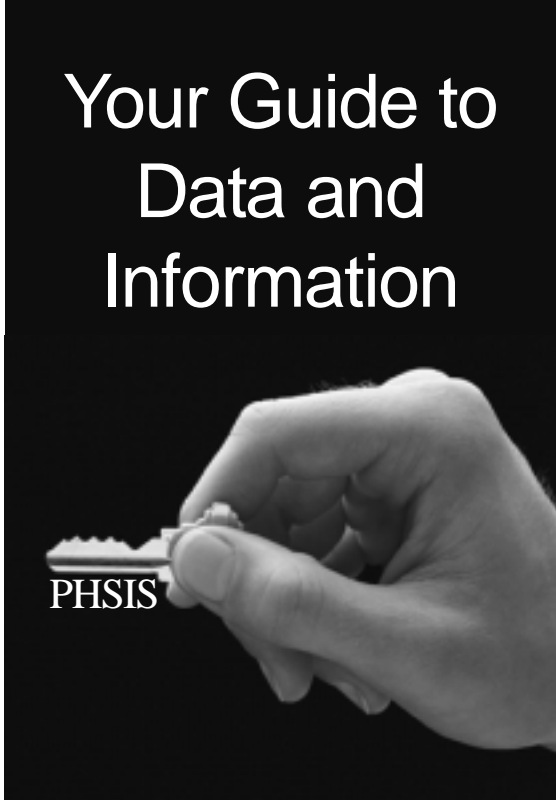
Datasets currently available on SCAN are Births, Deaths, Demographics and Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) survey results.

Future datasets include SCCCR (SC Central Cancer Registry), Infant Mortality, Maternal and Child Health and other datasets related to DHEC programs, public health and the environment.

Currently, SCAN enables public health care workers to instantaneously attain data structured to their specifications in seconds rather than days or weeks.

**You can access SCAN at:**  
<http://scangis.dhec.sc.gov/scan/>

**Office of  
Public Health Statistics  
and Information Services  
(PHSIS)**



**How to contact us:**

For additional information visit our web site:  
<http://www.scdhec.net/co/phsis/biostatistics/>  
or telephone (803) 898-3700



South Carolina Department of Health  
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# The Office of Public Health Statistics and Information Services (PHSIS)

DHEC's Office of Public Health Statistics and Information Services (PHSIS) offers a wide range of services to customers.

PHSIS includes the three main divisions of Biostatistics and Health GIS, the Central Cancer Registry, and Vital Records. With these Divisions, PHSIS contains core elements needed to carry out DHEC's surveillance and assessment responsibilities.

The PHSIS Institutional Review Board (IRB) conducts oversight on all agency research. The US Department of Health and Human Services has issued a Federal Wide Assurance to this IRB from the Office of Human Research Protection.

## Divisions

### Biostatistics and Health GIS

The Division of Biostatistics and Health GIS processes, analyzes and disseminates public health statistics and information on the health status of South Carolinians, including health needs and problems.

The Division also serves DHEC as the center for health-related Geographic Information Systems (GIS) applications and analyses. It provides high quality, timely public health information and consultation for DHEC programs and others.

Highly-trained staff with advanced degrees in statistics, biostatistics, epidemiology, public health, GIS, or a related field provide services to customers.

Services include topics like vital statistics, cancer statistics, immunization survey analysis, data linkage and analysis, health care facility information, demographics, research design, sampling design and statistical consultation. The services range from simply providing data to conducting highly complex studies.

### Services provided to DHEC programs:

- Management of data and information assets by assuring quality, confidentiality and security.
- Application of standard methods of statistics, biostatistics, geography and epidemiology to data analysis and interpretation.
- Evidence-based public health statistics and information products that support the State, DHEC Health Districts, county and community health evaluation, planning, health care delivery and development.
- The SCAN web site is available for user access to customized data, reports and maps.
- Wide-media orientated publications and applications for a secure, quick and easy access to public health statistics and information.
- An Internet/Intranet environment to facilitate centralized management, but decentralized usage of restricted public health data (spatial and tabular).
- Guidelines and policies for data release and consulting services according to law, regulations and Federal and State contracts.
- Emergency preparedness services.

### Examples of Major Publications:

- Infant mortality statistics
- Teen pregnancy statistics
- Vital and morbidity statistics
- PRAMS survey statistics
- Maternal and Child Health statistics

**Biostatistics publications are located under the publications and reports link off of the PHSIS homepage.**

### Central Cancer Registry

The South Carolina Central Cancer Registry (SCCCR) is a population-based system for the collection, storage and interpretation of data on South Carolina residents with cancer.

The SCCCR collects information on all new cancer cases in the state to determine true incidence rates and to monitor trends over time between population subgroups. The registry collects detailed cancer data including cancer diagnosis, pathological description, stage of disease, initial treatment information and basic demographics.

Data collection began Jan. 1, 1996 in hospitals, laboratories, freestanding treatment centers and physicians offices. The "Central Cancer Registry Act", enacted June 6, 1996, requires providers to report specific case information to the SCCCR.

The SCCCR has received "Gold Certification" for data excellence from the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries since 1997.

### Services and publications:

- Annual reports - since 1996.
- Multi-year reports - (South Carolina Cancer Facts and Figures)
- County profiles - County specific information about cancer incidence and cancer mortality.
- Consultation for potential cancer clusters
- Training and technical assistance to data providers
- "The Registry Review" - quarterly newsletter

**The SCCCR homepage is located under the Cancer Registry link off of the PHSIS homepage.**

### Vital Records

The Division of Vital Records is the state's official records keeper of births, deaths, fetal deaths, marriages, divorces and induced terminations of pregnancy that occur in South Carolina.

The Division provides for the registration, amendment and certification of all vital events. By law, issuance of certified copies of vital events is restricted. State law did not require filing of birth and death records until Jan. 1, 1915. The central filing of marriage licenses began in July 1950 and the filing of reports of divorce began in July 1962.

### Services:

- The Division houses and manages records of birth, death, fetal death, marriage, divorce and induced termination of pregnancy.
- Conducts searches for entitled persons for the issuance of certified copies of records of births, deaths, fetal deaths, marriages and divorces.
- Statewide Birth Certification - Each of South Carolina's 46 counties has a vital records office in the county health department. Native South Carolinians can get a short form birth certificate (birth card) from any county health department regardless of their county of birth.
- County health departments can issue certificates for deaths that occurred within the most recent five year period. Certified copies of death records issued by the county health department can only be obtained from the county of death.

**For information on obtaining certified copies, the Website for the Division of Vital Records is <http://www.scdhec.net/vr/>**